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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,037	02/13/2004	Tetsuhide Okahashi	2589-22	3898
23117 7590 09/24/2007 NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 901 NORTH GLEBE ROAD, 11TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22203			EXAMINER SOBUTKA, PHILIP	
			ART UNIT 2618	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,037

Applicant(s)

OKAHASHI, TETSUhide

Examiner

Philip J. Sobutka

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/13/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –\

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maitre (US 4,855,614).

Consider claim 1. Maitre teaches a switching apparatus comprising:

a first port to which a first device is connected (figure 3, 5);

a second port to which a second device that exchanges a signal with the first device is connected (figure 3, T2);

a third port to which another switching apparatus is cascade-connected (figure 3, T1, column 3, lines 50-58);

an impedance circuit that functions as a means for detecting the signal exchanged between the first and second devices, wherein the impedance circuit provides an impedance according to a connection state of the third port, and is electrically disconnected from a signal path when the other switching apparatus is cascade-connected to the third port (column 3, lines 35-52).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 2-9 are allowed.

Consider claim 2. The nearest prior art as shown in Maitre fails to teach a switching apparatus comprising: x first ports to which first devices are connected; impedance circuits; y second ports that are connected via the impedance circuits to the first ports, to which second devices are connected that exchange signals with the first devices, and to which direct-current voltages are applied from the second devices; coupling capacitors; x third ports that are connected via the coupling capacitors to the first ports, and to which first ports of another switching apparatus are connected; and signal superimposing circuits that vary currents flowing through the impedance circuits according to command signals from the second devices in order to feed to the first ports the command signals in a form superimposed on the direct-current voltages applied to the second ports, wherein, as x-to-y interconnection between the first and second devices is controlled, the impedance circuits provide impedances according to connection states of the third ports.

Consider claim 6. The nearest prior art as shown in Maitre fails to teach a satellite antenna switching apparatus comprising: x converter ports to which are connected converters that perform a predetermined conversion operation on signals received via satellite antennas; impedance circuits; y receiver ports that are connected via the impedance circuits to the converter ports, to which are connected receivers that exchange signals with the converters, and to which are applied direct-current voltages from the receivers; coupling capacitors; x cascade ports that are connected via the coupling capacitors to the converter ports, and to which are connected converter ports of another satellite antenna switching apparatus; and signal superimposing circuits that

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vary currents flowing through the impedance circuits according to command signals from the receivers in order to feed to the converter ports the command signals in a form superimposed on the direct-current voltages applied to the receiver ports, wherein, as x-to-y interconnection between the converters and the receivers is controlled, the impedance circuits provide impedances according to connection states of the cascade ports.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip J Sobutka whose telephone number is 571-272-7887. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on 571-272-4711.

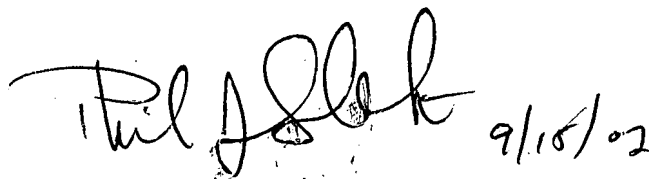
5. The central fax phone number for the Office is 571-273-8300.

Most facsimile-transmitted patent application related correspondence is required to be sent to the Central FAX Number.

**CENTRALIZED DELIVERY POLICY:** For patent related correspondence, hand carry deliveries must be made to the Customer Service Window (now located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), and facsimile transmissions must be sent to the Central FAX number, unless an exception applies. For example, if the examiner has rejected claims in a regular U.S. patent application, and the reply to the examiner's Office action is desired to be transmitted by facsimile rather than mailed, the reply must be sent to the Central FAX Number.

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6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip J. Sobutka", followed by the date "9/15/02".

PHILIP J. SOBUTKA  
PATENT EXAMINER

Philip J Sobutka

(571) 272-7887